

### **Home Medical Sharps Disposal**

The handling and disposal of used home generated medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets, are exempted from regulation in Arizona's Medical Waste Regulations (Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-13-1401 et seq.). However, these materials still need to be handled safely. ADEQ needs your help in ensuring that medical sharps are disposed of in a manner that helps minimize health risks to garbage haulers, landfill personnel and the community.

Medical sharps should be placed in either a purchased medical sharps container (from a pharmacy or health care provider) or a heavy-plastic or metal container. The containers should be puncture-proof with a tight-fitting lid. Household containers such as plastic detergent bottles can be used if the following precautions are observed:

- Use heavy-duty tape such as electrical or duct tape to secure the lid to the container.
- Write the words "Not Recyclable" on the container with a black indelible marker. This helps to ensure the container will not be inadvertently mingled with recyclable materials.
- Do not use a clear or glass container.
- Do not over-stuff the containers with medical sharps (fill only to approximately: full).
- This can increase pressure on the lid and cause a release of the medical sharps.
- While waiting for a full container, keep out of reach of children and pets. Always wash your hands after handling or touching medical sharps. Once you have followed these precautions, the container may be placed in your regular trash for disposal